

September 19, 2022

Head Coach Ron Rivera

On what he saw after watching the film:

"Well, probably a little bit of the biggest problem more so than anything else was just too many explosive plays. That's probably the biggest culprit of the day was we gave up opportunities to not allow those plays. Those plays should have been kept to a minimal gain and because we were out of position, they were able to exploit it."

On why the explosive plays keep happening:

"No, just because it's an individual, you know what I'm saying? It's not a group. It's not schematics. It is failure to put ourselves in position to force things to happen."

On an update on the injured players from yesterday's game:

"Actually I don't have it yet. I can tell you though, I know from yesterday conversations, Chase [Roullier] will probably have to go on short term IR minimum. [Daniel] Wise, we should get a better answer when he gets back from his MRI. Casey [Toohill] is in the protocol."

On what is the best position to put the defense in to succeed:

"Well, when you talk about it is, we had a blitz call on one of the touchdowns, the one where [DeAndre] Swift falls down. Could we have called a coverage? Yeah but we are kind of hoping maybe we can get him and knock them out of a field goal range or make it a little bit longer field goal. When you watch the tape, like we do, we had a guy that didn't cover his guy. If our guy goes and hugs up on Swift, but the way that ball was thrown, like he should have, there's a chance we could have intercepted it, knocked it down or made the tackle immediately, and they'll have to try and kick a field goal anyway. So, it's, like I said, we could have sit there and played a safe coverage, a zone coverage underneath, or we could have been aggressive, tried to knock him back a little bit further, which we did and unfortunately, we had one guy who did not do his job."

On not being able to establish the run game early on:

"Well, I think first of all we went too many three and outs initially. I think when that happens, you don't get a chance to establish much because we really didn't get into a rhythm. We got it going in the second half, mostly because we were having success throwing the ball and then we had a little success running it, which made our play actually a little more effective. It's unfortunate, you know, that we didn't get an opportunity to, to control it earlier. I mean, if you go back and if you could play just one half of football, I'd love to just play the second half because you know, unfortunately we won that, but we didn't win the game."

On the offensive line:

"To be honest with you, Nikki, basically what you said they were off in the first half. I think we missed a protection. We missed a couple of run blocks and gotta give them credit on one in particular, they were able to cover pretty dog on well and we didn't have time to throw the ball."

On if the defense is able to adjust on the fly:

"I think there's some things that we're still learning and getting working through because the adjustments that we worked on in OTAs, minicamp and training camp and there's a couple things that we gotta get corrected. But more so than anything else, like I said, it, the hard part was this game came down to six explosives. It's that old thing that this game's gonna come down to six plays you make or you don't make. Well there were six plays they made on their offensive side alone that really gave us trouble. Again, as I said to me, I'm not sure if I would put that much as much on schematics as much as I was some of the things that we gotta do better."

On if he's surprised at struggles despite having a good third down conversion rate:

"Well, what I am struggling with Matt is that we've allowed explosive plays. That's the biggest thing because you can't take 'em away, but if you're going to allow them in this type of game we're going to end up paying."

On WR Amon-Ra St. Brown commenting that the defense doesn't handle bunches well:

"Well, we gave up one big, long pass play. I mean, that's all I can say on the matter. We only gave up one long pass play. So, I mean we were what, 30% on third down. Honestly it comes down to and you, you, you look at it, their first long pass. Yeah, we screwed up a coverage there. And it was a bunch formation on their first long run, we misfit the gap, we got scooped, we didn't fall back. We didn't get over the top. and he was off to the races. I mean, so that's the sad part about it. That's the hard part for us as players and coaches that you look at it and you can sit there and say, man, we could have held those to minimum. It's like the jet sweep we could have honestly held that play to a minimum, but we didn't because of one reason or another."

On the backup center with C Chase Roullier going on IR:

"Well right now it is [G] Wes Schweitzer with [G] Wes Martin backing him up. Yes. And [T] Saahdiq Charles is the emergency and well go from there as well as [C] John Toth as another guy we could pop up."

On his thoughts on the run defense:

"Well, first one was on their first long run again, we got scooped. Two hatted if you want which basically means one of our D linemen got knocked out of his gap, one of our linebackers didn't fall back like he should have, and one of our safeties didn't get to his spot. And those are just things that we have to do. We can't count on one guy to make the play. And then as I said, the jet sweep, you know, we got cracked and, you know, we were trying to match that guy and we didn't replace like we should have. So, to me, it's just a matter of getting those little intricacies done."

On if he foresees any changes at linebacker this week:

"Well, basically what we're going to is match our defense to what our opponents trying to do offensively, schematically and personnel wise."

On his comments that they are running out of time in regard to the play of LB Jamin Davis:

"Just the biggest things is we got to continue to grow and develop."

On the coaching point for WR Dax Milne and the return team:

"That first one was two yards deep in the endzone. The big thing to understand on that one, you got to give them a little credit. They did something a little different and when they would go down and they were crossing their guys. The second thing that happened was one of their guys was a special teams guy, got elevated to starter, because they had to put one of their starters down, which meant they inserted a new player. And so we were trying to figure out where that guy fit in their scheme. And unfortunately, we didn't get him blocked. The next time we took the ball out on the kickoff return, we took it to the 29 that's because we knew now knew where this guy was lined up and how we had to plan. So once we did that, we got out to the 29. Then we came out in the second half on the opening kickoff, same thing and took it out to the 35."

So I guess what I'm telling you is that, is that Pete, you got to give them credit for that. You know what I'm saying? But we were able to adjust to it. Then we took one out to the 29-yard line and then we took one out to the 35. So, that's what happened on that. Based on if you watched that last one that we got out to the 35, that was one more step away from probably going the distance, if not out to midfield. That did help energize us because on that series we scored the touchdown. So we got a little bit of energy from Dax returning the kickoff."

On if he is fine with WR Dax Milne not kneeling in the endzone:

"Well again Pete, discretion, obviously being the better part of valor. If that thing's four, five, six yards deep, I would like to believe he's going to knee it down or not even try to catch it. For the most part he would let those go over top of his head that were definitely going to be three, four, five, six yards deep. Just so happens that the one that was two yards deep, he took out and unfortunately, they had a guy out there that we did not know how to account for. And if you block him, yeah, we probably get it out to the 25. If you don't block 'em that's what happened. And we didn't block 'em and again, whether you want to put that on scheme or whatever, you can put that on us as coaches just saying at that point we're guessing because you know, there was nothing to go off of based on anything other than his Jersey number."

On bouncing back:

"I give them a lot of credit in terms of, they played with some emotion and they played with some excitement. They made a couple of plays happen. We didn't do the things that we're supposed to. And low and behold, we're down 22 points. For this game, I like to say that when we went in at halftime, we made a couple adjustments, had a little conversation with the players. Came out and played pretty well at that point. So unfortunately, for us it's a game of two halves. You can't play that first half like we did. The unfortunate part is when we had some opportunities, we didn't take advantage of them. When you watch some of the stuff on tape and you see it and you see that we had a chance to get a turnover early and we didn't, we didn't complete the play. Now, we had a chance to get the ball out and we just didn't have the time. Those are some things that you sit there and just look at and just feel that's disappointing."

On teaching a player and what to do when they are out of position:

"We try a lot of different things. We have different teaching and coaching techniques that you try to use. Everything from just your general basic meeting to using videos, to providing them with notes. We have stuff that we put on the iPad, we go through walkthroughs. We give them tests. We go through a variety of different teaching techniques that we try to get through to these guys. Sometimes just through the heat of the battle, certain things happen during a play and sometimes it's just being a step late or going too quickly. Frustration is more so than anything else is, to me it goes back to those six explosive plays which in each and every case, if we had done certain things, even if we might have called something differently, those six plays I don't think would've hurt us as badly as they did."

On if he feels the players are putting in enough study time and work on the defense:

"I'd like to believe so. I thought some of the things they did last week with the exception of a couple explosive plays were pretty good, you know? I would say this, there are a lot of young guys on that football field for us. If you go through the list, you'll see that this is a young group of guys and they're still learning, growing. They're gonna make mistakes. We get to battle through a few injuries on the defensive side, especially in the front. We went from eight guys available to six. Actually I take that back. We went from nine guys available down to seven. The big thing is when you're playing young guys, you're gonna have to work through some mistakes."

On S Darrick Forrest and his postgame comments:

“I don't think that. I think what happened more so than anything else was we missed some opportunities to make plays.”

On if he is optimistic his group can figure out the explosive plays:

“Well, I like to think we're still looking forward. If I didn't think we could stop a big play, explosive play, then we definitely would be in trouble. But to me when they get down to that detailed of what we do, then that's where we just gotta continue to work and make sure that we all understand it. We all know it. We'll go from there.”